

WASHINGTON STATE

JUL 21 1967

Tshombe, Moise
CIA 4 The Congo

Court Hands Tshombe to Congo

Former Premier Now Is Facing Death Sentence

Algerian Jurists Hear 'Popularity' And CIA Blamed

ALGIERS (UPI) — The Algerian Supreme Court today ordered former Congolese Premier Moise Tshombe extradited to the Congo where he faces execution on the gallows on treason charges.

Tshombe had been tried in absentia in the Congolese capital of Kinshasa and sentenced to die. He was in exile in Spain at the time.

On June 30 a plane carrying him from one Spanish island to another was hijacked and flown to Algiers where he was jailed. The Congo immediately asked for his extradition.

Blames CIA

Just before the Supreme Court announced its decision Tshombe said he was a victim of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and "of my popularity in the Congo."

The 48-year-old former premier, known as a "rubber man" because of his ability to bounce out of difficult situations, faces execution by the government of Gen. Joseph Mobutu, his chief rival for power.

"I was the victim of the CIA and of my popularity in the Congo," Tshombe said.

"The imperialists could not tolerate the fact that I was received three times by General (Charles) De Gaulle."

The court heard the case on Wednesday and announced its decision would be announced earlier today. Twice the decision was postponed until late in the day.

Brought From Prison

Tshombe was brought back to the court from El Harrash prison in an unmarked vehicle guarded by plainclothesmen to hear the verdict.

Final approval must come from Algerian President Houari Boumedienne, but Boumedienne is not an admirer of Tshombe and informed sources said that was a formality.